

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 5 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method to perform an add operation from a root to a leaf, comprising the steps, in a data structure comprising a heap, of:

~~in a data structure comprising a heap, comprising:~~

identifying a root in the data structure;

identifying any unused leaf in the data structure; and

traversing from the root to the any unused leaf in the data structure, the traversing step ~~comprises the step of~~ comprising:

percolating values within the data structure from the root to any unused leaf while the ~~traversing step comprises the step of~~ not percolating values within the data structure from the root to any unused leaf, the percolating values comprising one or more holes.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

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5. (Currently Amended) A method for performing a remove operation in a data structure, comprising the steps of:

removing a value from a root that leaves a hole; and

percolating the hole to a leaf position, ~~wherein in the percolating step,~~
~~comprising the step of~~ including percolating the hole to any arbitrary leaf position in the data structure.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the data structure comprises a tree-like structure.

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